

**WEEKLY REPORT**  
**Region 9**  
**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Week Ending November 4, 2016**  
**Water Division**

**Soliciting Comments on Point Loma Wastewater NPDES Permit in San Diego:** On October 31<sup>st</sup>, we jointly proposed, with the San Diego Regional Water Board, to reissue an NPDES permit for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego. We also proposed continuing an existing waiver of secondary treatment requirements for Point Loma as discharges have not caused adverse impacts to the ocean. The permit incorporates key elements of the City's Pure Water program that will eventually send 83 million gallons of highly purified wastewater to local drinking water reservoirs. The comment period runs for 60 days. (Kozelka, 2-3448).

**Providing Training on Lead and Copper Corrosion Control:** On November 3-4, we hosted two workshops for Region 9 states, technical assistance providers, and utilities, on new tools to assist with corrosion control treatment for minimizing lead and copper in drinking water. EPA Headquarters provided an overview of their Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment Evaluation Technical Recommendations Manual. (Li, 2-3560)

**Significant Items for This Week (November 7-11)**

**Species Consultation for Humboldt Ocean Site Expansion:** Deliberative Process (b) (5)

The site, designated in 1995, accommodates mostly dredged material from the Humboldt Bay Harbor and needs to be expanded outward to prevent navigation hazards expected in 1-2 years. (Ross 2-3475)

**Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements**

**Organizing SF Bay-Delta Science Conference:** On November 15-17 we will participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Biannual [Bay-Delta Science Conference](#) that will focus on "Science for Solutions: Linking Data and Decisions." The conference will provide science-based information for San Francisco Bay-Delta water and environmental decision-making to over 700 attendees. Erin Foresman of the Watersheds Office is co-chairing the conference. (Foresman (916-930-3722)

**Presenting on Drinking Water Regulations, Lead and Potable Reuse:** On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we will present on federal drinking water regulatory activities, and contribute to discussions on lead, and direct potable reuse at San Francisco Public Utility's annual water quality and technology workshop. (Macler, 2-3579).

**Coordinating with California on Bay-Delta Water Quality:** On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Tomás Torres and our Bay-Delta team will meet with the State Water Resources Control Board to provide input on their proposed Phase I Water Quality Control plan and draft scientific report, which will serve as the basis for their anticipated draft Phase II Water Quality Control Plan. Flow standards in Phases I and II will cover the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers, their tributaries, and the Delta. (Woo, 2-3409)

**Other Information**

**Recent Press Releases**

**U.S. EPA and California Propose Permit to Reduce San Diego Wastewater Discharges to the Ocean**  
Advanced treatment to reduce discharges, provide sustainable water source

10/31/2016

Contact Information:

U.S. EPA: Nahal Mogharabi (mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov)  
213-244-1815

San Diego RWQCB: David Gibson (david.gibson@waterboards.ca.gov)  
619-521-3005

SAN DIEGO - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board proposed a City of San Diego wastewater discharge permit to increase ocean water quality protection and water reuse. The proposed permit for the City's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant would ensure that all federal and state water quality standards are met.

In 2014, the City and environmental organizations signed an agreement for the City to implement a potable water reuse plan. Known as Pure Water San Diego, this plan would eventually divert up to 83 million gallons of Point Loma wastewater per day from ocean discharges to an advanced water purification facility. Once built, the facility would send highly purified water to augment local drinking water reservoirs or other reuse projects.

"San Diego has made a commitment to reduce pollutant discharges through its ocean outfall," said Alexis Strauss, EPA's Acting Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Today's proposal furthers EPA and the State's longstanding priority of taking action to protect Southern California's coastal waters."

"Building on previous work by the city, U.S. EPA and the San Diego Water Board, this permit and the Pure Water Program measures it includes represent a major step forward in protecting the health of our coastal waters while also increasing our community's drought resilience," said David Gibson, executive officer for the San Diego Water Board. "In terms of its development with the community, its goals, and specific requirements, this permit is a model for an outcome-based regulatory approach in California and the nation."

The Regional Water Board jointly issues National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits with EPA to ensure that all applicable water quality standards are met in federal and state waters. The proposed permit maintains requirements to meet water quality standards for the next five years and includes elements of the Pure Water San Diego program to reduce ocean discharges and increase water reuse.

During the past decade, flows and pollutant discharges from the Point Loma plant have decreased steadily. Sediment discharges, for example, declined 25%. Over the next five years, the new permit requires the City to complete the planning, design, and environmental review for the infrastructure to implement its Pure Water reuse project. Construction of advanced water treatment facilities will enable the City to begin reusing highly treated wastewater within 10 years.

The City of San Diego must apply for a permit renewal every five years and is required to meet secondary treatment levels. EPA may grant a modification of these standards for ocean discharges if federal and state water quality standards are met. The Point Loma plant has been operating under such a modification since 1995, consistently meeting or exceeding federal and state discharge requirements.

For the next 60 days, the agencies are seeking public comment on the draft permit, including EPA's tentative decision to continue waiving secondary wastewater treatment requirements for the City, based upon the plant's current performance and commitments to implement advanced treatment and water reuse.

The Pure Water San Diego program reflects an integrated water planning approach supported by EPA, the State of California, and members of the local community, businesses, and citizen groups. Under the program, the City will invest in an advanced water purification facility to turn wastewater into a resource that helps meet the water supply needs of the region, reduces the need for imported water, and helps address ocean water quality by reducing discharges.

To comment on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/region9/water/npdes/pubnotices.html>

For more information on EPA Region 9's tentative decision on the Clean Water Act 301(h) waiver, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/region9/water/npdes/permits.html>

For more information on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's draft NPDES permit, visit: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>

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